



***Wild Trout
Restoration***

**Board of
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Trout Conservancy;
Missoula, MT



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Missoula, MT



*"Who knows what
admirable virtue of
fishes may be below
low-water-mark,
bearing up against a
hard destiny, not
admired by that
fellow creature who
alone can appreciate
it! Who hears the
fishes when they cry!
It will not be for-
gotten by some
memory that we were
contemporaries."*

- Thoreau

The Trout Conservancy OF MONTANA

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Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Planning Bureau
1520 E. Sixth Ave.
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

RE: Miller Property restoration, Ruby River

I'm writing to voice the support of the Trout Conservancy for the proposed restoration of channel form and riparian area in a 2,000 foot reach of the Ruby River within the Miller Ranch property.

I have reviewed the project pre-proposal prepared by Gillilan Associates, Inc., and I agree with the general concept of restoring sinuosity, re-activating historic meander channels, and re-vegetating riparian vegetative communities in order to address the multiple impacts caused by channel straightening for the benefit of agricultural use. The targeted section of the Ruby River is an impaired water body on the DEQ's 303(d) list, which can be linked to the straightening of this reach and consequent erosion. The proponents of this restoration are to be commended for their efforts to address some of the common land use issues that translate into many of Montana's nonpoint source water quality problems, and also trout habitat problems.

I share the hope of Gillilan Associates and the Ruby Watershed Council that this project, if successfully implemented, will serve as an example of appropriate stream restoration for other landowners adjacent to similarly straightened reaches of the Ruby River.

Sincerely,

John Zelazny
Executive Director, the Trout Conservancy